

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a small business operator, I urge you to support the pending EchoStar and DirecTV merger. This is an exciting combination because of the clear benefits it will provide for consumers and retail merchants and contractors.

Retail merchants will benefit from EchoStar's upgrade plans because it will simplify their inventory and repair process by standardizing the satellite TV equipment platform. The greatest gains for retail merchants will come from EchoStar's plans to carry local broadcast channels in all 210 US television markets once the merger is completed. This means that satellite TV will be a more effective competitor to cable since consumers will now be able to get their local stations by satellite as they can currently from cable. This will put local retailers selling DBS satellite dishes on a more level playing field as they sell services that directly compete with local cable TV companies. This service improvement will mean more business for retailers and a more competitive video service for consumers from satellite television.

We have been in the satellite industry since 1981 and live in a rural area where cable is not an option. Our local channels can not be viewed with an off-air antenna. We wouldn't have gone into the satellite business if our customers could see their local channels or get cable.

This merger is an economic gain for the small business community and it needs your support.

Sincerely,

Carlene Drake
PO Box 159
Stephentown, NY 12168